

REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks and amendments. Claims 54, 58, and 62 are amended. Claims 55, 59, and 63 are canceled.

Accordingly, claims 54, 56-58, 60-62, 64 and 65 are pending in the application.

I. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 54, 56-58, 60-62, 64 and 65 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese application publication number 2001-275119 by Itokawa ("Itokawa") in view of Japanese application publication number 10-136352 by Matsushita Electric Ind. Co. Ltd. ("Matsushita") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,050,640 issued to Acharya et al. ("Acharya").

Claims 54, 58, and 62, as amended, incorporate the limitations in claims 55, 59, and 63, respectively. On page 5 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that claims 55, 59, and 63 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, because independent claims 54, 58, and 62 now respectively recite all of the elements in claim 55, 59, or 63, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 54, 58, and 62 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the Examiner's earliest convenience. Further, in light of the above amendments, claims 55, 59, and 63 have been canceled. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 54, 58, and 62 are respectfully requested.

With respect to dependent claims 56, 57, 60, 61, 64, and 65, each of these claims depends on base claim 54, 58, or 62 and incorporates the limitations thereof. Thus, in view of the above reasons discussed in connection with claims 54, 58, and 62, dependent claims 56, 57, 60, 61, 64, and 65 are patentable over the cited art because of their dependency on an allowable base claim. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 56, 57, 60, 61, 64, and 65 are respectfully requested.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants respectfully acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication on page 5 of the Final Office Action that claims 55, 59, and 63 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, as discussed above, the Applicants have amended independent claims 54, 58, and 62 to incorporate all of the limitations in claims 55, 59, and 63, respectively. In light of the amendments of claims 54, 58, and 62, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 54, 58, and 62, along with their respective dependent claims, are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of claims 54, 56-58, 60-62, 64 and 65 at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record, and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be useful in moving the application forward to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (408) 720-8300.

Respectfully submitted,

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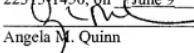
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